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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

First Committee
24th meeting
Thursday, 10 June 2004, 11 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. Sareva ..... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the First Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly

The Chairman: This meeting has been convened to elect the Chairman and the Bureau, consisting of three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, of the First Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, and with rule 103, as well as with annex B, paragraph 9, of resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003.

Before I begin the elections, I would like to take this opportunity to say just a few words of thanks to the Bureau of the First Committee for the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, with which I have worked so closely for almost a year. To the Vice-Chairmen — Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef of Tunisia, Mr. Suriya Chindawongse of Thailand and Mr. Ionut Suseanu of Romania — and to the Rapporteur, Mr. Miguel Carbo of Ecuador, I wish to express my deep gratitude for their support and advice. I relied on their guidance throughout my chairmanship, and their counsel has been invaluable.

I should now like to begin the election process, starting with the Chairman of the First Committee. It is my absolute pleasure to nominate the candidate of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the International Organizations in Geneva, to the post of Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Unfortunately, Ambassador De Alba is not with us today, as he has had to return to his duties in Geneva.

Ambassador De Alba has been a member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 1981, representing his country with distinction throughout the world and in many capacities. He has served as, inter alia, Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs; Director for Education and Sports for the Ministry of Planning and Budget; Director for Humanitarian and Social Affairs, United Nations Department, and Director General for the United Nations System, both for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.; and, most recently, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador De Alba is well known to most, if not all, of us. He has participated actively in numerous international meetings, world summits, conferences, meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, and in various regional meetings, such as the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the Rio Group and the Summit of the Americas, as well as in specialized meetings. It is truly a pleasure to put his name before the Committee today.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of

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procedure and with established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba of Mexico elected Chairman of the First Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chairman: I should like now to proceed with the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, Mr. Alon Bar of Israel and Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo Rowe of Sierra Leone have been nominated by their respective regional groups as candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee for the forthcoming session. Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh Alnajar of Yemen has been nominated by the Group of Asian States for the post of Rapporteur.

As members are aware, the General Assembly has sought to improve the efficiency of its work. Thus, bearing in mind that agreement has been reached by the regional groups on the nominations of the candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, I expect that the Committee would wish to dispense with the nomination of the Bureau and move to elect the proposed candidates as Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur of the Committee by acclamation.

I hear no objection.

It was so decided

The Chairman: It is therefore my pleasure to declare that Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia, Group of Eastern European States, has been elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation; Mr. Alon Bar of Israel, Group of Western European and Other States, has been elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation; Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo Rowe of Sierra Leone, Group of African States, has been elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation; and Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh Alnajar of Yemen, Group of Asian States, has been elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

I should like, on behalf of the Committee and on my own account, to express our most sincere congratulations to Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba on his election as Chairman of the First Committee; to the Bureau — Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian, Mr. Alon Bar and Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo Rowe — on their election as Vice-Chairmen; and to Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh Alnajar on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee at the fifty-ninth session.

I am sure that, with their wide experience, political acumen and knowledge, the proceedings of this Committee will flow smoothly and effectively and will contribute greatly to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and to the improvement of its efficiency.

I should also like to assure Ambassador De Alba that his very able Bureau will be an asset, one which he should use without hesitation. Again, my congratulations to all, and my very best wishes for a successful session.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.